

Message Text

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TAGS: CASC, CDES, SOPN, CG
SUBJ: PRESS GUIDANCE AND DETAILS ON DEATH OF DR. ESCHTRUTH

REF: A) LUBUMBASHI 375, B) LUBUMBASHI 368.

1. AFTER QUESTIONING ZAIRIAN DOCTOR FROM KAPANGA HOSPITAL AND MISSIONARY WOLFORD WHO FOUND BODY OF DR. GLEN ESCHTRUTH, CONSULATE HAS ARRIVED AT TENTATIVE RECONSTRUCTION OF DEATH OF DR. ESCHTRUTH, WHICH MAY BE USEFUL BACKGROUND FOR DEPARTMENT.

2. AS MENTIONED IN REF A, INVADERS SCRAWLED SLOGANS ON WALLS OF BUILDINGS IN MUSUMBA. ACCORDING TO ZAIRIAN DOCTOR, ONE OF SLOGANS WAS "A BAS LES CHEFS BLANCS"("DOWN WITH THE WHITE CHIEFS"). THIS PRESUMABLY A REFERENCE TO DR. AND MRS. ESCHTRUTH, WHO BOTH LUNDA CHIEFS. THUS IT WOULD APPEAR THERE HOSTILITY TOWARD ESCHTRUTH, WHO CLEARLY THE LEADER OF MISSIONARIES AND REGARDED AS POWERFUL COMMUNITY FIGURE, FROM BEGINNING OF INVASION.

3. DR. ESCHTRUTH THE ONLY MISSIONARY IN OCCUPIED AREA PERMITTED TO TRANSMIT AND RECEIVE MESSAGES (ALL UNDER INVADER SUPERVISION) THROUGH INVASION PERIOD. ESCHTRUTH AN EXPERT ON RADIO/COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, AND INVADERS SUSPICIOUS ALL ALONG

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THAT HE SECRETLY COMMUNICATING OTHER MESSAGES TO OUTSIDE WORLD BETRAYING MILITARY SECRETS. ON APRIL 15 RECONNAISSANCE PLANE CIRCLED SEVERAL TIMES OVER MUSUMBA. INVADERS VERY ALARMED, SEARCHED MISSION FOR RADIOS, CONFISCATED OR DESTROYED EVERYTHING ELECTRIC THEY THOUGHT BEING USED FOR COMMUNICATION BY MISSIONARIES TO FAZ. DR. ESCHTRUTH NATURALLY CONSIDERED PRIME TARGET OF SEARCHES AND SUSPICIONS.

4. ALSO AROUND APRIL 15, INVADERS' ORIGINAL "POLITICAL COMMISSIONER" (COMMISSAIRE POLITIQUE), WHO RESPONSIBLE FOR RELATIONS BETWEEN SOLDIERS AND CIVILIAN POPULATION, REPLACED, ALLEGEDLY FOR EXCESSIVE LENIENCY. NEW POLITICAL COMMISSIONER, AN EX-SCHOOL TEACHER FROM KAPANGA, MUCH LESS COMPETENT AND MORE HOSTILE TO POPULATION AND MISSIONARIES, AND ANXIOUS TO SHOW HIS STRENGTH.

5. ON APRIL 16, INVADERS ORGANIZED MEETING OF VILLAGERS TO EXHIBIT FAZ SOLDIER CAPTURED IN AREA. IT IS BELIEVED DR. ESCHTRUTH ALSO DISCUSSED AT THIS MEETING AND ACCUSATIONS MAINST HIM, THOUGH MISSIONARIES NOT PERMITTED TO ATTEND. ON APRIL 18, MEETING OF HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES CALLED BY INVADERS. AT THIS MEETING A NURSE DISCIPLINED BY DR. ESCHTRUTH FOR DRUNKENNESS AND SHODDY WORK DENOUNCED HIM FOR BLOCKING ADVANCE AND PROMOTION OF TALENTED WORKERS LIKE HIMSELF. AT SAME MEETING INVADERS EXPLAINED DR. ESCHTRUTH GSILTS OF CERTAIN OFFENSES OF BEING TAKEN TO ANGOLA. ZAIRIAN DOCTOR NOTED THAT INVADERS SAID DR. ESCHTRUTH BEING TAKEN TO ANGOLA WITH SMIRK, AND BOTH HE AND DR. ESCHTRUTH CONCLUDED THERE STRONG CHANCE HE TO BE EXECUTED INSTEAD.

6. APRIL 19 AT ABOUT 1600 HOURS DR. ESCHTRUTH DRIVEN AWAY BY SOLDIER DESCRIBED BY MISSIONARIES AS DRUNK AND BELLIGERENT. APPARENTLY VEHICLE FIRST WENT TO KAPANGA WHERE CAPTURED FAZ SOLDIER PICKED UP, THE PROCEEDED ABOUT 42 KILOMETERS SOUTH OF KAPANGA TO POINT 600-700 METERS FROM SMALL VILLAGE. VILLAGERS INTERROGATED SUBSEQUENTLY REPORTED THAT 5-6 SHOTS HEARD, THEN VEHICLE RETURNED WITHOUT DR. ESCHTRUTH AND ONE ZAIRIAN WHO HAD BEEN SEEN IN SAME VEHICLE EARLIER.

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7. MISSIONARIES TOLD NOTHING OF DR. ESCHTRUTH'S FATE FOR NEXT 5 WEEKS. ON MAY 22, ZAIRIAN METHODIST PASTOR WHO WOUNDED IN FAZ BOMBING OF CHURCH AT MUSUMBA-KAKESE ON MAY 15 (PASTOR SUBSEQUENTLY DIED MAY 23) REVEALED TO ZAIRIAN DOCTOR TREATING HIM AT KAPANGA HOSPITAL THAT HE HAD DISCOVERED BODY OF DR. ESCHTRUTH AROUND APRIL 22-23 AFTER VILLAGERS TOLD HIM OF SHOOTING INCIDENT, BUT HAD NOT REPORTED IT WHILE INVADERS STILL IN KAPANGA AND MUSUMBA BECAUSE OF FEAR (NOTE--INVADERS FLED KAPANGA MAY 21). ZAIRIAN DOCTOR AND MISSIONARY WOLFORD IMMEDIATELY DROVE OUT TO GRAVE SITE AND DISCOVERED BODIES OF DR. ESCHTRUTH AND FAZ SOLDIER IN SHALLOW GRAVE.

8. ZAIRIAN DOCTOR SPECULATES SOMETHING MAY HAVE HAPPENED ON ROAD TO CAUSE SOLDIER TO SHOOT DR. ESCHTRUTH AND FAZ SOLDIER. ZAIRIAN DOCTOR FINDS IT CURIOUS MEN KILLED WITHIN HEARING DISTANCE OF VILLAGE, WHEN THEY EASILY COULD HAVE BEEN KILLED IN MORE ISLOATED SPOT A SHORT DISTANCE FROM KAPANGA. DRUNKENNESS OF SOLDIER ALSO OFFERS SOME EVIDENCE AGAINST COLD-BLOODED POLITICAL EXECUTION. ON OTHER HAND, "TRIAL" OF SORTS CONDUCTED BY

INVADERS AND "GUILTY" VERDICT MAKE IT SEEM LIKELY THAT EVEN IF KILLINGS PERHAPS NOT PRECISELY ACCORDING TO INVADERS' PLANS, EXECUTION PROBABLY INTENDED IN ANY CASE.

9. PRESS GUIDANCE. CONSULATE FEELS PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF DETAILS SURROUNDING ESCHTRUTH DEATH WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE AND WOULD BE UNNECESSARY AND PAINFUL INTRUSION ON PRIVACY OF ESCHTRUTH FAMILY. CONSULATE SUGGESTS FOLLOWING GUIDANCE IN RESPONSE TO PRESS INQUIRIES. "DR. ESCHTRUTH WAS KILLED BY SOLDIERS OF INVADING FORCES ON OR ABOUT APRIL 19." IF ASKED ABOUT CIRCUMSTANCES, WE BELIEVE FAMILY WOULD PREFER NOT TO HAVE DETAILS PUBLISHED, BUT DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO SAY THERE WAS "TRIAL" OF DR. ESCHTRUTH CONDUCTED BY INVADERS, WHO APPARENTLY SINGLED OUT AS MISSIONARY AND COMMUNITY LEADER, AND THAT HIS DEATH SEEMED TO BE RESULT OF VERDICT OF "TRIAL."
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